

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 31-50 were pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 31-50 are currently pending. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

- (1) Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 31-50.
- (2) The Office Action objected to claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 6 accordingly, and respectfully submits that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.
- (3) The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maute et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,551,287 (“Maute `287”). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite “shields interposed between each of the pairs of voltage sensing electrodes, wherein the shields isolate each of the pairs of voltage sensing electrodes from ambient electrical current flow between the pairs of voltage sensing electrodes.” Basis for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figures 2A, 2B, and 10-16 and in paragraphs [0014]-[0015] and [0043] of the substitute specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that Maute `287 does not disclose shields interposed between pairs of electrodes to isolate the pairs of electrodes from ambient electrical current flow between the pairs of electrodes. While Maute `287 discloses what is referred to as “end shield

plate 16,” *see* Maute `287, col. 3:8-10, end shield plate 16 merely functions to block axial fluid flow in the borehole from interfering with the sensors, as shown in Maute `287 Figure 2. End shield plate 16 is not interposed between pairs of sensors, and cannot isolate pairs of electrodes from ambient current flow between the pairs. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact Applicant’s Attorney, Brian A. Carlson, at 972-732-1001. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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